

Attorney Docket No.: KUZ0033US.NP
Inventors: Yoshikawa et al.
Serial No.: 10/588,338
Filing Date: August 3, 2006
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REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the instant application. Correction of Form PTOL-326 to reflect pending claim 7 is respectfully requested. Claims 8, 9 and 10 have been added. Support for this amendment is provided in the specification at page 13. No new matter has been added. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshihiro et al. (JP 11-223812) and further in view of Uchida et al. (US20020154260)/Tomohiro et al. (JP 2001-305335).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

The Examiner has acknowledged that Yoshihiro et al. does not describe a diffusion plate with a saturated water absorption rate of not more than 0.9% as well as a color difference (ΔE) of not greater than 2.0 as specified in JIS K 7105 after being exposed for 500 hours to an artificial light used for an artificial light source test specified in JIS K7350-2. However, the Examiner suggests that it would have been obvious to do so because it is conventionally known to use the appropriate materials/design standards for the purpose of ensuring durability/ performance/quality

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standard for the purpose of ensuring a quality working product. Further, the Examiner suggests that Uchida et al. (US20020154260)/Tomohiro et al. (JP 2001-305335) disclose a variety of materials and that it is conventionally known to incorporate the appropriate materials in order to meet accepted design standards. Thus, the Examiner suggests combining Yoshihiro/Uchida/Tomohiro would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill for the purpose of meeting the conventional design standards in the diffuser plate art.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Yoshihiro et al. does not disclose anything related to the water absorption rate or color difference. Instead, this reference discloses the uniform brightness of the liquid crystal display using a diffuser plate.

Uchida et al. discloses a technical advantage of small water absorption rate for diffusion plates but does not show anything about color difference nor its relationship with absorption rate or other characteristics of the plate.

Tomohiro et al. does not disclose anything about water absorption or color difference.

Further, it is respectfully pointed out that JIS K7350-2 and JIS K 7105 are not quality standards for a diffusion plate, but rather standards for defining an artificial light

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source (JIS K7350-2) and color difference (JIS K 7105). That is, K7350 defines the kind of artificial light source while K7105 defines the measuring method. Accordingly, the Examiner's reliance on these standards to suggest that the appropriate materials/design standards and/or durability/performance/quality standards of a diffusion plate are conventionally known is incorrect. Neither a saturated water absorption rate nor a color difference is a conventionally known standard for a diffusion plate. Nor do any of the cited references teach or suggest the combination of these two important characteristics of elements in the instant claimed invention.

As made clear in teachings of the specification at, for example Figure 2 and Figure 3, identifying the correct balance of these two characteristics (color difference and absorption rate) in light of other changes to the diffusion plate and/or liquid crystal display, i.e. proportion of methyl methacrylate is decreased resulting in a desired increase in durability as well as an undesirable increase in distortion, is clearly inventive. The cited combination of references, none of which even mention color difference in any manner, nor its combination with absorption rate,

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clearly fails to provide the requisite teaching or suggestion to render obvious this invention.

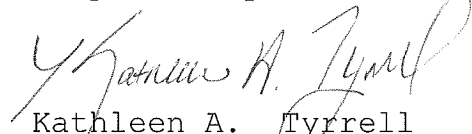
Accordingly, the cited combination of prior art, which does not teach or suggest all the limitations of the instant claimed invention, cannot establish prima facie obviousness with respect to the instant claimed invention. See MPEP 2143.

Withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing comprises a full and complete response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and subsequent allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: **February 22, 2008**

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